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PICTURE OF THE MONTH

ITOS Views

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On Jan. 23, 1970, the first of the improved TIROS operational satellites (ITOS) was launched into a polar orbit. The ITOS spacecraft is rectangular in shape with three protruding solar panels. The primary sensors on this satellite include AVCS and APT camera systems as well as a scanning radiometer (SR) that takes measurements in two spectral regions, the visible 5.2- to 7.3- μ region and the 10.5- to 12.5- μ region.

Figures 1 and 2 were taken by the ITOS 1 APT system and were read out at the Institut für Meteorologie und Geophysik der Freien Universität Berlin. Figure 1 shows numerous terrain features. These include the Caspian Sea with a sunglint area (A) on Kara-Bogaz Gol. (bay along

the sea's eastern shore), the Aral Sea, and the dark vegetation-covered area along the river to the south. The predominantly snow-covered Himalaya Mountains appear in the southeastern portion of the picture. In contrast to the high mountains are the lakes, Issyk-Kul at (B) and Balkhash at (C).

Figure 2 centered over Scotland depicts the British Isles, northern Germany, Denmark, and southern Scandinavia. The stratiform clouds over Scotland are associated with an upper level cold Low. The absence of a frontal band or other cloudiness makes this a good example of a "Kaltlufttropfen."

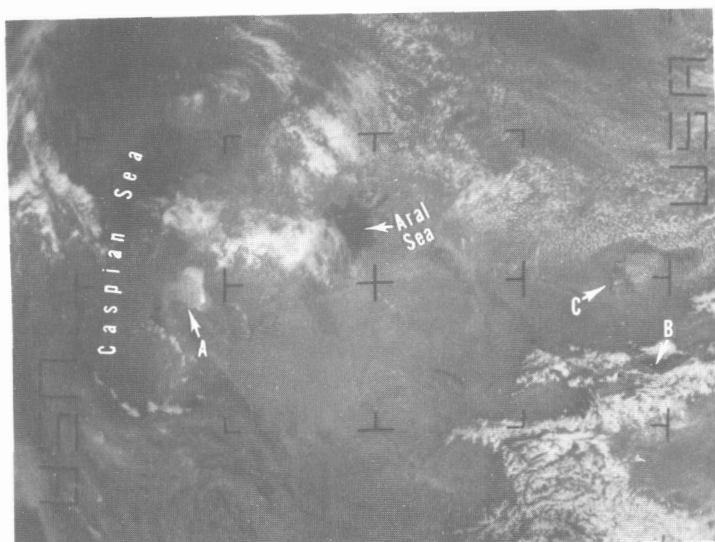


FIGURE 1.—ITOS view, Pass 1676, at 1015 GMT on June 6, 1970.

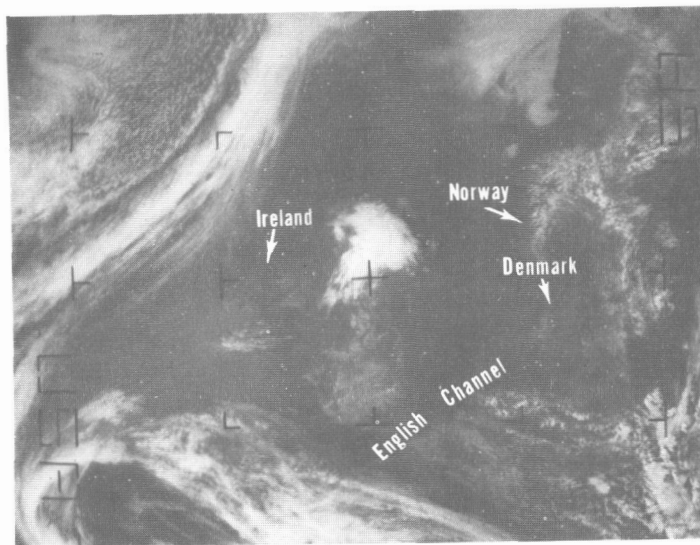


FIGURE 2.—ITOS view, Pass 1677, at 1216 GMT on June 6, 1970.